AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A quick-pin blade tensioning device for a band saw including an upper band wheel mounted via an upper arm, the upper band wheel engaging a band saw blade, comprising:

a sliding tension bracket for engaging the upper band wheel and the upper arm of the band saw;

a lifting shoe having a bottom surface and coupled with the sliding tension bracket and configured and dimensioned to be received within the upper arm of the band saw and to slide the sliding tension bracket within the upper arm of the band saw;

a pin for contacting the bottom surface of the lifting shoe and moving the lifting shoe ~~in a direction substantially perpendicular to the bottom surface of the lifting shoe~~ within the upper arm of the band saw;

a tension crank having a first end and a second end, the first end coupled with the pin such that at least a portion of the pin extends axially outwardly from the tension crank, the tension crank configured and dimensioned to be received within the upper arm of the band saw, the tension crank capable of rotating the pin;

a tension handle having a first position and a second position, the tension handle coupled with the second end of the tension crank, the tension rotates the tension crank causing the pin to rotate about the tension crank when the tension handle is moved,

wherein the tension handle, when moved from the first position to the second position, rotates the pin to a position where the pin contacts and moves the lifting shoe applying tension to the band saw blade.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The quick-pin blade tensioning device of claim 1, wherein the band saw further includes a standard blade tensioning device.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The quick-pin blade tensioning device of claim 1, wherein the tension handle is removable from the tension crank.

6. (Currently Amended) The quick-pin blade tensioning device of claim 1, wherein the tension handle has at least three positions.

7. (Currently Amended) The quick-pin blade tensioning device of claim 1, wherein ~~the size of~~ the tension crank may be replaced with a tension crank having a different size ~~is adjustable~~, and wherein the tension applied to the band saw blade when the tension handle is moved ~~increases~~ changes as the size of the tension crank is changed ~~increased~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A band saw including an upper band wheel engaging a band saw blade, comprising:

a quick-pin blade tensioning device coupled with the upper band wheel of the band saw, the quick-pin blade tensioning device comprising,

a sliding tension bracket engaging with an upper arm of the band saw and the upper band wheel;

a lifting shoe having a bottom surface and coupled with the sliding tension bracket and configured and dimensioned to be received within the upper arm of the band saw and to slide the sliding tension bracket within the upper arm;

a pin for contacting the bottom surface of the lifting shoe and moving the lifting shoe ~~in a direction substantially perpendicular to the bottom surface of the lifting shoe~~ within the upper arm of the band saw;

a tension crank having a first end and a second end, the first end coupled with the pin such that at least a portion of the pin extends axially outwardly from the tension crank, the tension crank configured and dimensioned to be received within the upper arm, the tension crank capable of rotating the pin;

a tension handle having a first position and a second position, the tension handle coupled with the second end of the tension crank, the tension handle rotates the tension crank causing the pin to rotate about the tension crank when the tension handle is moved,

wherein the tension handle, when moved from the first position to the second position, rotates the pin to a position where the pin contacts and moves the lifting shoe applying tension to the band saw blade.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The band saw of claim 8, wherein the band saw further includes a standard blade tensioning device.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The band saw of claim 8, wherein the tension handle is removable from the tension crank.

13. (Previously Presented) The quick-pin blade tensioning device of claim 8, wherein the tension handle has at least three positions.

14. (Currently Amended) The quick-pin blade tensioning device of claim 8, wherein ~~the size of~~ the tension crank may be replaced with a tension crank having a different size ~~is adjustable~~, and wherein the tension applied to the band saw blade when the tension handle is moved ~~increases~~ changes as the size of the tension crank is changed ~~increased~~.

15.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Withdrawn) A method for adjusting the tension of a band saw blade operationally coupled with an upper band wheel of a band saw, comprising:

positioning a quick-pin blade tensioning device comprising a sliding tension bracket, coupled to a lifting shoe engaged by a pin coupled with a tension crank, in operational contact

with the upper band wheel and an upper arm of the band saw and providing a tension handle, coupled to the tension crank, for engagement by a user, followed by at least one step selected from the group consisting of;

rotating the tension handle to a first position whereby the blade tensioning device moves the upper band wheel in a first direction decreasing tension in the blade; and

rotating the tension handle to a second position whereby the blade tensioning device moves the upper band wheel in a second direction increasing tension on the blade.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the tension handle is removable from the tension crank.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the pin is removable from the tension crank.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of determining operation of the band saw after the tension handle has been rotated into the first or second position.